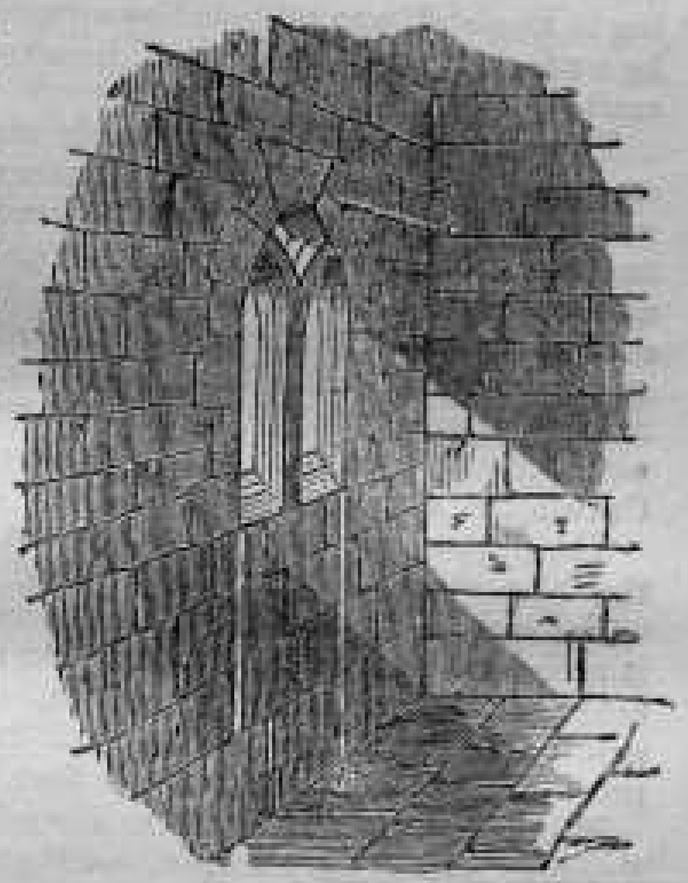
an entrance. The fire, which had made great progress, drove them back; the flames rushed out at every opening, and the neighbourhood, which was principally built of wood, was threatened with a general conflagration. Terror had already circulated ridiculous stories, and the word sorcerer flew from mouth to mouth. But chance brought succour to the affrighted crowd. The prior of the Sorbonne, Jean de la Pierre, happened to be passing; though he would gladly have been elsewhere, he affected a stern countenance, and summoned the people to pray for the extinction of the fire. The thing happened as he wished. As soon as the boobies were on their knees, and while the bells of the neighbouring churches were sounding the alarm, the fire was seen to abate as by a miracle; for, the books and furniture which fed it being consumed, its attack on the stone walls were happily in vain. A little more and the prior would have been carried off in triumph, and canonized without any bull from the Pope. The fire, and the useless search which was made for Faust, confirmed the suspicions against him; for the rest, the trial stopped short. Olivier Maillard exorcised from the pulpit the pretended unknown sorcerer, whom he had not been able to get burnt in the Place de Grève.

A NOBLE TRANSCRIBER OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

The history of the Bibles, augmented by a host of marvellous details, which the ignorance of the time swallowed

without proof, penetrated to Court. Louis XI., whom the miraculous stories (as the hundred tales attributed to him sufficiently prove), when it had been communicated to him by his confessor, exclaimed, as he took down the leaden virgin from his cap, "Good mother, let one of these sorcerers come to me, and write Bibles, and such books as I may wish, thus quickly, and I will grant him a part of my kingdom."

Jean de la Pierre, who saw in this affair something more than sorcery, sent an intelligent clerk to Mayence who, by dint of money and promises, seduced three of Faust's workmen, and brought them to France. Martin Crantz, Ulric Gering, and Michael Friburger, in 1469, printed at Paris, in a house of the Sorbonne, the "Letters of Gaspar Pergamensis."



A FEUDAL PRISON.

In the earliest days of the art of printing, we have narratives of printers who were romantically spirited away from the parent presses. One of the most remarkable is connected with Oxford, and while printing was yet in its cradle at Haarlem.

Henry VI., by advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury, despatched a confidential agent in disguise, under the guidance of Caxton, in his trading journeys to Flanders.

UB Braunschweig http://www.digibib.tu-bs.de/?perid=00031385&imgid=00000913.jpg